NEWS ANALYSIS 1-0771 MAY 13, 1976
FRED GALVAN

ANGOLA, THE U.N. AND THE U.S.

ANNCR: THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL HAS PUT OFF FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD ITS CONSIDERATION OF ANGOLA'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE WORLD ORGANIZATION. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS:

VOICE: THE COUNCIL WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE UP ANGOLA'S MEMBERSHIP BID ON TUESDAY-- BUT IT POSTPONED ACTION WITHOUT SETTING A NEW DATE. PRESS REPORTS FROM THE UNITED NATIONS HAD SAID THAT THE ACTION FOLLOWED THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT'S OWN WITHDRAWAL OF ITS BID AT THIS TIME. THOSE DISPATCHES INDICATED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD TOLD THE ANGOLAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE U.N. THAT IT WOULD VETO THE BID IF CUBAN TROOPS CONTINUED TO OCCUPY ANGOLA. HOWEVER, HERE IN WASHINGTON, THE STATE DEPARTMENT IMPLIED IT KNEW NOTHING OF ANY SUCH AMERICAN MOVE, ALTHOUGH IT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ANGOLAN DELEGATE HAD MET WITH A UNITED STATES OFFICIAL IN NEW YORK RECENTLY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN EMPHATICALLY RESTATED WASHINGTON'S CONCERN ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ANGOLA AND ITS CONTINUED OCCUPATION BY SOME TWELVE TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND CUBAN TROOPS.

ON HIS RECENT TOUR OF SIX BLACK AFRICAN NATIONS, SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SEVERAL TIMES SPELLED OUT THE AMERICAN POSITION. THE FUTURE OF ANGOLA AND AFRICA, HE SAID, SHOULD REST IN THE HANDS OF AFRICANS-- AND NOT OUTSIDERS. WASHINGTON FEELS THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND CUBA ARE INTENT ON EXPLOITING UNREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. A LARGE PART OF THIS CONCERN IS BASED ON THE PRESENCE IN ANGOLA OF CUBAN TROOPS EQUIPPED WITH SOPHISTICATED SOVIET WEAPONS-- TROOPS WHICH CONCEIVABLY COULD BE USED ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA.

THOSE SEEKING TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN RHODESIA'S BLACK MAJORITY AND ITS WHITE MINORITY FEAR THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA IN SUCH VAST FORCE AND NUMBERS-- COULD BE AN ATTEMPT TO INJECT SUPERPOWER RIVALRY INTO THE POLITICAL EQUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. SO FAR, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE CUBAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA ARE WITHDRAWING, AND THIS COMPLICATES THE SITUATION OF THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT IN SEEKING U.N. MEMBERSHIP. FOR-- ALTHOUGH THE STATE DEPARTMENT DID NOT SAY SO-- THE CUBAN PRESENCE SUGGESTS THAT THE LUANDA GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE MASTER IN ITS OWN HOUSE. PERHAPS THAT IS WHY THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN COMMENTING ON ANGOLA'S U.N. MEMBERSHIP BID TUESDAY SAID THAT THE CONTINUED CUBAN PRESENCE WOULD BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ANY AMERICAN EVALUATION OF THAT APPLICATION. UNQUESTIONABLY, A CUBAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA WOULD ENCOURAGE A POSITIVE ASSESSMENT BY WASHINGTON OF THAT BID.

AT ANY RATE, WASHINGTON IS NOT APPROACHING THE ISSUE WITH A CLOSED MIND. AS THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN INDICATED, IT IS LEAVING ITS COURSES OF ACTION OPEN, DEPENDING ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. AS THE SPOKESMAN PUT IT, " LET'S SEE WHAT THE SITUATION IS LIKE" WHEN THE ANGOLAN APPLICATION IS RENEWED. IN OTHER WORDS-- THE NEXT MOVE IS NOW UP TO LUANDA.

-0-